Plan was reiterated in the Full Planning Commission Meeting held on 27th and 29th June, 2001 to discuss the Approach Paper to the Tenth Five Year Plan.

Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission has requested all Union Ministers to undertake a review of the existing schemes and subject them to Zero-based Budgeting, retaining only those schemes in the Tenth Plan that are demonstrably efficient and essential. In this process many schemes may have to be re-oriented, those that have outlived their utility, may have to be closed and those with similar objectives may have to be merged. It has also been emphasized that there is a need to make the schemes more focused and streamline the delivery system to ensure that benefits reach the target group.

Secretary, Planning Commission, while inviting the proposals for Tenth Five Year Plan and Annual Plan 2002-03 has also emphasized that the Central Ministries/Departments may undertake this exercise while formulating their proposals. The proposals of Central Ministries/Departments will be discussed in the Secretary level meetings scheduled during December 2001 - January 2002.

Funds for Agriculture and Infrastructure

2717. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister has declared on the Independence Day address that more funds would be provided for agriculture and infrastructure;

(b) if so, whether any detailed programme in this regard has been formulated;

(c) what are the project on which more funds would be provided;

(d) to what extent it would give a boost to agriculture and also infrastructure activities;

(e) whether the State Governments have also been urged to implement them; and

(f) if so, whether the Prime Minister has also formulated an action force to monitor these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) The Approach paper to the Tenth Plan has identified Agriculture development as a core element of the Plan since growth in this sector is likely to

lead to the widest spread of benefits, especially to the rural poor including agricultural labour. Infrastructure development, where gaps are large and private sector cannot be expected to step in significantly, the role of government may have to be restructured. It will have to increase in some areas of infrastructure development which are unlikely to attract private investment e.g. rural infrastructure and road development. In others e.g. 'telecommunications, power, ports, etc., the private sector can play a much larger role provided an appropriate policy framework is in place. Here, the role of the Government needs to change to facilitate such investment as much as possible while still remaining a public sector service provider for quite some time. In all these areas, the role of government in creating and maintaining a modern regulatory system for ensuring a fair deal for consumers, transparency and accountability, and a level playing field is also extremely important. Redefining the role of the Government to reflect the changed circumstances facing the economy must be an important aspect of future strategy.

This redefinition is necessary both at the Central Government level and also at State Government level.'

The Planning Commission is in the process of formulation of Tenth Five Year Plan (2002-2007). Public programmes giving boost to agriculture and infrastructure activities in the country over the next five years will be included in the Tenth Five Year Plan.

(f) Cabinet Secretariat has constituted a Cabinet Committee on Economic Reforms (CCER). A Group of Ministers to facilitate the task of CCER as also a Standing Committee of Secretaries to assist the CCEA and CCER have also been constituted by the Cabinet Secretariat.

PMGY and PMRY in Karnataka

2718. SHRI H. K. JAVARE GOWDA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the district-wise amount allotted to Karnataka under the Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana and the Pradhan Mantri Rozgar Yojana during the years 2000-2001, 2001-2002;

(b) the amount spent so far;

(c) whether it is a fact that the schemes have not been fully implemented by the State; and